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Review of quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in general and special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

Quadrennial reports, 1994–1997, submitted through the Secretary-General pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31

Note by the Secretary-General

Addendum

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1. Anglican Consultative Council

(Special consultative status granted 1985)

The Anglican Communion of Churches is represented in 165 different countries around the world and consists of approximately 70 million persons. The Anglican Communion is deeply interested in issues related to human rights, gender, social justice, environmental stewardship, international economics and a number of other issues because it is concerned about the well-being of the human family and the preservation of the sanctity of creation. As an entity of the wider church, the Anglican Communion Office at the United Nations is committed to speaking out on important global issues because of the ways in which they affect the dignity of every human person.

The Office works to serve and satisfy the common concerns of the Anglican Communion and other faith communities. As such, it seeks to implement the resolutions adopted by the Primates Meetings, the Lambeth Conference of Bishops of the Anglican Communion, and the Anglican Consultative Council on behalf of the wider membership of the Anglican Communion. The Anglican United Nations Office has been actively involved in advocating the Anglican Communion's desire to alleviate and reduce poverty, expand productive employment opportunities and facilitate social integration among marginalized groups in various countries. The Office is especially committed to working in those areas that are "pro-dignity, pro-nature, and pro-people". In particular, five areas stand out: human rights, the empowerment of women and all people, the environment, international debt, and disarmament. In this context, the Office serves to:

(a) Forge stronger funding and programmatic links with various United Nations social service agencies to promote the causes of children and the most vulnerable in society;

(b) Advocate for policies and programmes that promote human rights, the environment, the advancement of women and other areas related to economic and political, and social justice;

(c) Promote a prophetic ministry of the Church through round-table policy analysis forums to engage senior church officials, government officials, and members of the diplomatic, business, and academic communities to develop policy proposals that promote human rights and social justice;

(d) Offer interventions at the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and advocacy at other United Nations meetings and conferences;

(e) Enrich the Communion through briefing papers on the environment and development, human rights and other topics of social justice.

Activities

The Anglican Consultative Council, Anglican Communion Office at the United Nations, has been involved in a number of activities related to the work of the United Nations. A sampling of its efforts are noted below:

(a) The Office spoke at and participated in a meeting on the Ethical and Spiritual Dimensions of Social Progress at the request of the United Nations Secretariat, in preparation for the World Summit for Social Development (October 1994);

(b) The Office advocated on behalf of the wider Church in the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen, Denmark (March 1995);

(c) The Office participated in discussions between the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Burundi, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Archbishop of Burundi and other church and United Nations officials on the political situation in Burundi. The Office forwarded a report on these discussions to the United Nations Security Council (July 1995);

(d) The Office represented the Communion and also spoke on behalf of the World Council of Churches at the Fourth World Conference on Women (September 1995);

(e) With the participation of members of the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Office hosted a major conference on the international debt crisis (May 1996);

(f) The Office actively worked with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and non-governmental organizations to help Haitian children who were detained at Guantanamo Base, Cuba, having fled their country, and seeking asylum (June 1995);

(g) The Office has provided oral interventions at the Commission on Human Rights on the Sudan (1996, 1998) and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (1997); written statements were offered on Pakistan (E/CN.4/1997/NGO/105), Mauritania (E/CN.4/1997/NGO/101), East Timor (1998) and Myanmar (1998);

(h) The Office participated in the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and shared the concerns of the Church in environmental and development issues (1996);

(i) The Office has participated in programmes of the NGO Committee on Disarmament and has sought to lobby Member States to sign the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty;

(j) The Office has met and maintained contact with Secretaries-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali (1996 and 1997) and Kofi Annan (1997 and 1998) and members of their senior staff to share information and issues of concern to the wider church;

(k) The Office has actively participated in a high-level meeting of Statespersons and spiritual leaders of The InterAction Council, which took place in Vienna from 20 to 22 April 1998. The group, under the chairmanship of former Chancellor of Germany Helmut Schmidt, sought to draft a universal declaration of human responsibilities, giving the prerequisites of the protection of human rights, and offering an update on achievements since the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted in 1948;

(l) The Office has participated in a number of United Nations/United States of America forums, and hosted an important forum on United States support of the United Nations at Trinity Church, Wall Street (May 1998).

Other activities

The Anglican United Nations Office has maintained close working relationships with key United Nations staff in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General , the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), IMF and the World Bank, on issues related to globalization and its impact on human development. The Office has served as the voice of the Anglican Church in the Sudan, Uganda, Kenya, Pakistan and Sri Lanka to the Secretariat, UNDP, UNICEF, UNHCR and both the General Assembly and the Security Council on many occasions (1997 and 1998). News and information about the ministry of the Anglican Communion Office at the United Nations are available through our Office's home page which can be accessed as follows: http://www.aco.org/united-nations/. Our Internet e-mail address is: un-aco@i-2000.com.

2. Anti-Slavery International

(Special consultative status granted 1950)

Anti-Slavery International's mission statement

In 1996, the Council of Anti-Slavery International (ASI) adopted the following mission statement:

> Anti-Slavery International (ASI) promotes the eradication of slavery and slavery-like practices, and freedom for everyone who is subjected to them. The abuses that ASI opposes include slavery and the buying and selling of people as objects; trafficking of women and the predicament of migrant workers who are trapped into servitude; debt bondage and other traditions that force people into low status work, forced labour; forced prostitution; abusive forms of child labour; and early or forced marriage and other forms of servile marriage. ASI focuses on the rights of people who are particularly vulnerable to exploitation of their labour, notably women, children, migrant workers and indigenous peoples.
>
> ASI pursues its objectives by:
>
> (a) Collecting information about these abuses, bringing them to the attention of the public and promoting public action to end them;
>
> (b) Identifying ways in which these abuses can be brought to an end, and influencing policy makers in Governments or other institutions at national and international levels to take action accordingly;
>
> (c) Supporting victims of the abuses that ASI opposes in their struggle for freedom, in particular by working with the organizations that they establish and other organizations campaigning on their behalf.

ASI's membership and work with other non-governmental organizations

ASI currently has some 1,700 members in 45 different countries (the majority of its members are based in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland). Some members are individuals, while 176 are organizations. ASI coordinates its activities with other anti-slavery organizations, notably those in Australia, Canada, France and Norway. It takes part in alliances or coalitions with other non-governmental organizations on a number of issues within its mandate, in particular the NGO Human Rights Fund for Indigenous Peoples (a fund to support indigenous representation at United Nations meetings), the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child (ASI is convener of the Sub-group on Child Labour), the Global March Against Child Labour and the United Kingdom branch of ECPAT (End Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism).

Participation by ASI representatives in United Nations meetings, 1994–1997

ASI was represented at the following meetings of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and its subsidiary bodies and made the following statements:

(a) Commission on Human Rights, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997:

In 1994, ASI made a statement about appropriate United Nations mechanisms for considering the implementation of certain human rights instruments. In 1995, ASI made statements on forced labour in Bosnia, organ transplants in China; and forced evictions;

(b) Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, 1994, 1995, 1997:

In 1994, ASI made statements about South Africa and the Chittagong hill tracts (in Bangladesh). In 1995, ASI made a general statement about slavery and forced labour. In 1997, ASI made a statement about the trafficking of children in West Africa and the work of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery;

(c) Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997:

Numerous oral statements were made at each session. In 1994, these dealt with early marriage; child prostitution and tourism; carpet labelling; slave labour in Brazil; child servitude in India; bonded children and women in Nepal; bonded labour in Pakistan; forced begging in West Africa; and the enslavement of indigenous peoples. In 1995, they covered forced labour in northern Bosnia; forced labour in Myanmar; organ transplants in China; bonded labour and the sexual exploitation of Devadasis in India; child domestic workers in West Africa; migrant domestic workers in the United Kingdom; slavery in Mauritania; ritual slavery in Ghana; and women's property rights. In 1996, they concerned the United Nations response to institutions and practices similar to slavery; migrant workers subjected to slavery; child servitude; children working as domestic servants; forced labour in Myanmar; bonded labour in India; slavery in Mauritania; bonded labour in Nepal; and bonded labour in Pakistan. In 1997, statements concerned enslaved indigenous peoples; slavery in Mauritania; bonded labour in Nepal; human and labour rights violations in the sex industry; slavery in the Sudan; bonded labour in Pakistan; and trafficking of children in West Africa;

(d) Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities Working Group on Indigenous Populations, 1996:

ASI was also represented at the following conferences and meetings and presented information at associated non-governmental organizations sessions: International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 1994; World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 1995; Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 1995; World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, 1996, organized by the Government of Sweden in cooperation with UNICEF, ECPAT and the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Cooperation with United Nations programmes and bodies and specialized agencies

ASI was commissioned by the International Labour Organization (ILO) International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) to undertake a number of activities between 1995 and 1997, notably a project in Indonesia in 1994, the organization of a seminar about child domestic workers (in the United Kingdom) in 1996, the publication of a handbook on collecting information about child domestics in 1997 and a survey of non-governmental organization views about a proposed convention against the worst forms of child labour (in 1997).

Other relevant activities

ASI made a submission to the Committee on the Rights of the Child in October 1994 on the rights of the child within the family and as convener of the (NGO) Sub-group on Child Labour, organized a "theme day" on child labour for the Committee on the Rights of the Child in 1994 and an informal briefing about child labour during the International Labour Conference in 1997.

At its 1995 session, the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery asked ASI to prepare a commentary about contemporary forms of slavery under the terms of United Nations treaties against slavery adopted in 1926 and 1956. This was submitted the following year.

In March 1996, ASI attended a UNICEF consultation about child labour at the organization's headquarters in New York.

ASI arranged for representatives of non-governmental organizations from countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America to participate in United Nations meetings, and in each case gave them an introduction to the United Nations human rights system and enabled them to present statements. In West Africa, ASI has organized training sessions concerning women's rights, particularly the relevance of international human rights instruments and mechanisms.

In addition to the various formal statements delivered by ASI mentioned above, ASI prepared informal briefings for members of United Nations treaty monitoring bodies.

3. Coordinating Board of Jewish Organizations (CBJO)

(Special consultative status granted 1947)

The Coordinating Board of Jewish Organizations (CBJO) is a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. It has served in that capacity since the 1940s and represents more than 1 million members in more than 50 countries through three constituent organizations — B'nai B'rith International, the Board of Deputies of British Jews, and the South African Jewish Board of Deputies.

During the past four years, CBJO has been actively represented at all sessions of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission on Human Rights and the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, and at meetings of the human rights treaty bodies. It was represented as well at all sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

CBJO was selected to deliver a non-governmental organization plenary address in Beijing in 1995 at the Fourth World Conference on Women and organized a session at the NGO Forum.

It also participated in the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen in 1995 and in the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) in Istanbul in 1996, where the principal CBJO representative delivered an address at the NGO Forum.

The principal CBJO representative played an active role in the United Nations NGO Committee on Human Rights, where he was re-elected Honorary Chairman. He was also re-elected Honorary Chairman of the United Nations NGO Committee on Youth. He was a founding member of the United Nations NGO Coalition for an International Criminal Court and contributed ideas during the drafting of the statute of the International Criminal Court, particularly on the subject of redress for victims of the heinous crimes over which the Court will exercise jurisdiction. In 1997, he was elected to the Board of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (CONGO). CBJO's representatives in Geneva and Vienna have also been active at their respective United Nations centres.

In 1995, the principal CBJO representative was invited to prepare a monograph on Security Council reform, which was published at the end of that year. Based upon his experience as Secretary of the United States Commission on Improving the Effectiveness of the United Nations, he was selected in 1995 to serve on the Advisory Committee for an Effective United Nations.

CBJO constituents have been active in supporting ratification of United Nations human rights treaties, including the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

During the four years under review, CBJO constituents had membership in the following countries and territories: Argentina, Aruba, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Curaçao (Netherlands Antilles), the Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya,

Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Martinique, Mexico, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, the United States, Uruguay and Venezuela.

4. Dhaka Ahsania Mission

(Special consultative status granted 1993)

Brief introductory statement recalling the aims and purposes of the organization

The major objectives of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) are annihilation of the distinction between man and man by promoting unity, peace love and brotherhood among people throughout the world and cultivation of one's inner unexplored potentialities contributing to the development of the human community. During the period 1994–1997, DAM achieved tremendous growth and success in the field of education, women's development, environmental promotion, anti-drug activities, refugee protection, elimination of trafficking in women and children and so on in cooperation with United Nations agencies, namely, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP).

During the years 1994 to 1997, DAM developed working partnerships with several developmental agencies in countries like India, Pakistan, Nepal, Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines, Japan, China, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Netherlands, Germany, Austria, Ireland, the United States of America, Canada and France. DAM received the ESCAP Human Resources Development Award for 1994, the Grand Prize from Asia/Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU), Japan, in 1996 and several awards from the Government of Bangladesh. It has been nominated as member of the APPEAL (Asia-Pacific Programme of Education for All) Resource and Training Consortium by UNESCO, and the Bangkok and Literacy Resource Centre for Girls and Women by ACCU, Japan.

DAM's grass-roots level programmes include basic human resources development services to poor and disadvantaged groups of people in rural and urban areas. DAM's non-formal education programme covers 150,000 learners a year; its poverty alleviation and empowerment of women programme covers about 30,000 poor women; and tens of thousands of people are covered under its primary health care, drug demand reduction, environmental promotion and protection, disaster preparedness, and prevention of trafficking in children and women programmes, among others. DAM has established one secondary-level teachers' training college, one institute of primary and non-formal education, one institute of technical and vocational education and a university of science and technology in Bangladesh.

During 1994, DAM got membership in International Council for Adult Education (ICAE), Canada, an international non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or conferences and other United Nations meetings

Representatives of DAM attended the following meetings:

(a) Annual conference of non-governmental organizations organized by the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat from 20 to 22 September 1994;

(b) Annual conference of non-governmental organizations organized by the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat from 18 to 20 September 1995;

(c) Annual conference of non-governmental organizations organized by the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat from 10 to 12 September 1996;

(d) Annual conference of non-governmental organizations organized by the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat from 10 to 12 September 1997;

(e) Fifth International Conference on Adult Education (CONFINTEA-V) sponsored by UNESCO in Hamburg, Germany, from 14 to 18 July 1997 and its preparatory conference held in Thailand from 16 to 18 September 1996 (participation by the Executive Director).

Cooperation with United Nations programmes and bodies and specialized agencies

Activities were as follows:

(a) DAM conducted the National Workshop on Training of Master Trainers in Basic Education in Lahore, Pakistan, from 28 December to 7 January 1994 which was sponsored by UNICEF;

(b) The Executive Director participated as a Resource Person in the Second Regional Workshop on Continuing Education for Development, held in Shijiazhang City, Hebei province, China, from 16 to 25 May 1994 and sponsored by UNESCO, Bangkok;

(c) The Executive Director organized a Training Workshop for Developing Literacy Resource Centres for Girls and Women in Pakistan in September 1994 sponsored by UNESCO;

(d) On invitation from UNESCO, the Executive Director, DAM, worked as a faculty member in the Third Regional Workshop on Continuing Education held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 19 to 28 August 1996;

(e) The Executive Director organized a UNESCO Training Workshop for Developing Literacy Resource Centre for Women in India held in Jaipur, India, from 16 September to 5 October 1996;

(f) DAM was designated by UNESCO to undertake, as a "nodel centre", a study on "Reorienting Basic Education towards Poverty Alleviation and Improvement of Quality of Life" in the Bangladesh context. DAM undertook and completed the study in February 1997;

(g) On contract with UNESCO, DAM organized four national workshops on continuing education for development in the subregion comprising India, Pakistan, Nepal and Bangladesh in 1996–1997;

(h) One representative of DAM was deputed to UNESCO, Bangkok, for four months (February–May 1997) for the preparation of the background document of the regional framework for developing literacy as a tool for empowerment of the poor;

(i) The Executive Director, on invitation from UNESCO, Bangkok, participated in the Technical Working Group Meeting on the APPEAL Intercountry Resource and Training Consortium (ARTC), Pune, India, 21–27 May 1997;

(j) On invitation by ACCU, the Executive Director participated in the 1997 Planning Meeting on ACCU Regional Literacy Programmes in Asia and the Pacific in July 1997;

(k) On request of UNESCO, Bangkok DAM organized a national seminar from 9 to 11 December 1997 to review the proposed regional programme framework developed on "Literacy as a tool for empowerment of the poor";

(l) On request of UNESCO, DAM organized a Regional Expert Group Consultation Meeting on the Development of an Asia-Pacific Non-formal Education Database in Dhaka from 15 to 18 December 1997.

Other relevant activities

These included:

(a) Action in implementation of United Nations resolutions: DAM observed, mostly in collaboration with the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC), various United Nations days by organizing seminars, symposia and rallies. Each year international Women's Day, World No-Tobacco Day, World Environment Day, the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, International Literacy Day, Universal Children's Day and Human rights Day are observed;

(b) Preparation of papers and/or other materials at the request of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies:

(i) DAM undertook a UNESCO-sponsored project entitled "Translation and Printing of the Manual *Educate to Empower*" into Bangla (Bengali) in 1995;

(ii) DAM developed a simplified version of ATLP (APPEAL Training Materials for Literacy Personnel) materials of UNESCO in one volume in Bangla in 1995;

(c) Other examples of consultative and substantive activities, including financial assistance received from or given to the United Nations, field-level collaboration and joint sponsorship of meetings, seminars studies and so on:

(i) DAM organized a subregional workshop on Continuing Education for Development held in May/June 1996 in Dhaka with participation of India, Nepal and Bangladesh and with financial support from UNESCO;

(ii) DAM organized one national training workshop in Dhaka and four local-level training courses on Community-based Drug Demand Reduction and Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS) Prevention in Bangladesh in September 1996 with financial support from ESCAP;

(iii) One representative of DAM was deputed to UNESCO (1 August 1996 to 31 October 1996) to assist them in organizing a regional workshop on Planning and Monitoring of Literacy.

Geographical breakdown of membership and partner organizations

Membership

Country	Number of members (individuals)
Australia	21
Bangladesh	5 600
Canada	15
India	1 100
Italy	10
Malaysia	7
Pakistan	35

Saudi Arabia	15
Thailand	20
United Arab Emirates	10
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	25
United States of America	50
Total number of members	6 900

Partner organizations

These comprise Government of Bangladesh; Ontario Catholic English Teachers' Association, Canada; the Unitarian Service Committee of Canada (USCC); Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) of Denmark; Miseror and Deutcher Caritas Verband, Germany; Department of Foreign Affairs, Ireland; AIDLINK, Ireland; COAL, Ireland; RTE One World Fund, Ireland; Combined Services Third World Fund, Ireland; Agency for Personal Service Overseas (APSO), Ireland; Centro Volontari Marchigiani, Ancona (CVM), Italy; SPIEC, Japan; Asia/Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO, Japan; CEBEMO, Netherlands; Bilance, Netherlands; Memisa, Netherlands; SKN, Netherlands; Overseas Development Administration, United Kindom; Catholic Fund for Overseas Development (CAFOD), United Kingdom; Kirby Laing Foundation, United Kingdom; Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO), United Kingdom; Concern Universal, United Kingdom; Heifer Project International, United States of America; LDS Charities, United States of America; Newman Community, United States of America; Laubach Literacy International, United States of America; and United Nations organizations like ESCAP, ILO, UNDCP, UNESCO, UNHCR and UNICEF.

5. Eastern Regional Organization for Public Administration (EROPA)

(Special consultative status granted 1966)

Introduction

The Eastern Regional Organization for Public Administration (EROPA), which is an Asian organization of States, groups and individuals in the Asia and Pacific region, was established in 1960 in response to a common desire among developing countries to promote regional cooperation in improving knowledge, systems and practices of government administration to help accelerate economic and social development. At present, it has 13 States, 103 institutional (institutes or schools or public administration, universities, government agencies and municipal corporations) and 369 individual members. In 1966, EROPA was accorded consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, emphasizing the cooperative relationship between the United Nations and EROPA.

Activities

EROPA has the following regular activities: (a) General Assembly/International Conference; (b) Executive Council Meeting/Seminar. In the following activities, EROPA maintained its affiliation with the United Nations.

United Nations attends EROPA

The EROPA forty-first Executive Council Meeting and Seminar on "Comparative Public Sector Reform" was held in Canberra, Australia, from 18 November to 1 December 1994. In this seminar/meeting, United Nations/New York was represented by Hamdan Benaissa, International Adviser in the Division of Public Administration and Development Management, United Nations Department for Development Support and Management Services of the United Nations Secretariat; Asian and Pacific Development Centre (APDC) was represented by its Director, Dr. Harka Gurung. The EROPA Sixteenth General Assembly and Conference on "New Trends in Public Administration for the Asia-Pacific Region: Decentralization" was held from 11 to 14 September 1995 in Tokyo. In this conference, the United Nations was represented by Hamdan Benaissa, Senior International Adviser in the Division of Public Administration and Development Management of the Department for Development Support and Management Services of the United Nations Secretariat; Dr. Itoko Suzuki, Officer in Charge of the Governance and Public Administration Branch, Division of Public Administration and Development Management, United Nations Department for Development Support and Management Services of the United Nations Secretariat; Hideki Kaji, Director of the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) in Japan, Josefa Edralin, Information Systems Planner and Coordinator of the Development Administration Programme of UNCRD, Japan. APDC was represented by Harka Gurung, Director. In the EROPA forty-third Executive Council Meeting and Seminar on "Public Administration Reform for Economic Transformation" held in Hanoi, Viet Nam from 14 to 19 October 1996, the United Nations was represented by Jacinto de Vera of the Department for Development Support and Management Services in New York. In the EROPA seventeenth General Assembly and Conference on "Public Service Management: Achieving Quality Performance in the Twenty-First Century" held in Kuala Lumpur, the United Nations was represented by Jacinto de Vera of the Division for Public Administration and Public Economics, Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat.

United Nations works with EROPA

In the EROPA sixteenth General Assembly and Conference held in Tokyo, Japan, a resolution was adopted by the Assembly recognizing the importance of the resumed fiftieth session of the United Nations General Assembly which would be held in spring 1996, and which would consider the role of public administration and development, and encouraging States members to be represented at that meeting at the highest level possible. In line with the Department for Development Support and Management Services preparations for the resumed fiftieth session of the United Nations General Assembly a Regional Conference on the "Role of Public Administration in Promoting Economic Development" in Asian countries was held at the Asian Development Bank in Manila from 18 to 20 March 1996. The said conference was hosted by the Civil Service Commission of the Philippines in cooperation with the University of the Philippines — College of Public Administration (UP-CPA), and the Local Government Academy (LGA), and co-sponsored by the United Nations Department for Development Support and Management Services, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Commonwealth Secretariat. Twenty countries from the EROPA region were represented, and a total of 57 participants attended the conference. The United Nations was represented by Senior Interregional Adviser Hamdan Benaissa and Jacinto de Vera of the Department for Development Support and Management Services, Ernesto Bautista of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Manila and Abul Hashem of ESCAP.

Recognizing the complementarity of purpose, expertise and action, as well as their long-standing, productive and continuing relationship, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat and EROPA signed in May 1998 a Memorandum of Understanding agreeing to set up cooperative arrangements for drawing on their respective capacities and expertise in the implementation of their programmes, particularly for the Asian region.

EROPA publications

The publications programme in public administration and related fields is one of the major activities of EROPA. In continuing to fulfil its functions of disseminating the results of its research projects, conferences, seminars and meetings, the Organization publishes books, monographs, documentation of conference proceedings and the EROPA *Journal*. During the period under review, EROPA published the following: (a) January 1994–December 1997, 11 issues of the *EROPA Bulletin*; (b) starting in 1989, the *Asian Review of Public Administration* (ARPA): from January 1994 to December 1997, six issues of ARPA were published; (c) latest book publication: *New Trends in Public Administration for the Asia-Pacific Region: Decentralization*, Susumu Kurosawa, Toshihiro Fujiwara and Mila A. Reforma, eds. 531 pp.

Linkages

Professor Mila A. Reforma attended the United Nations seminar on Government-Private Sector Partnerships in Delivery of Municipal Services in New Delhi, India, 7–11 February 1994, organized by the United Nations Urban Management Programme (UN-UMP), for Asia and the Pacific.

The EROPA Secretary-General, on invitation of the United Nations, participated in the Professional Colloquium of the International Technical Forum on Public Administration and Development at the United Nations, New York, 11 and 12 April 1996. The Forum was held in conjunction with the United Nations resumed session of the United Nations General Assembly (New York, 15–19 April 1996).

The EROPA secretariat met with Dr. Itoko Suzuki of the Department for Development Support and Management Services in Manila during her brief stay in Manila in January 1996. Dr. Suzuki was briefed on forthcoming E[illegible]. A activities.

EROPA has continued to promote linkages with other international, regional and national institutions both in the Asia-Pacific region and in other parts of the world. These are the Division for Public Economics and Public Administration of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, UNDP, UNCRD, APDC, the Commonwealth Association for Public Administration and Management (CAPAM), the International Personnel and Management Association (IPMA), the Institute on Governance (IOG), the Civil Service Commission of the Philippines (CSC), the Ford Foundation, the Asia Foundation, the International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS), the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the International Union of Local Authorities (IULA), the African Training and Research Centre in Administration for Development (CAFRAD), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Asian Development Bank.

Publications/documents

These include:

(a) Book: *New Trends in Public Administration for the Asia-Pacific Region: Decentralization*;

(b) Journal: *Asian Review of Public Administration*;

(i) Vol. VI, Nos. 1 and 2, January–December 1994;

(ii) Vol. VII, No. 1, January–June 1995;

(iii) Vol. VII, No. 2, July–December 1995;

(iv) Vol. VIII, No. 1, January–June 1996;

(v) Vol. VIII, No. 2, July–December 1996;

(vi) Vol. IX, No. 1, January–June 1997;

(c) *EROPA Bulletin*:

(i) Vol. 15, No. 1, January–March 1994; No. 2, April–June 1994; No. 3, July–September 1994; No. 4, October–December 1994;

(ii) Vol. 16, Nos. 1 and 2, January–June 1995; Nos. 3 and 4, July–December 1995;

(iii) Vol. 17, No. 1, January–March 1996; No. 2, April–June 1996; Nos. 3 and 4, July–December 1996;

(iv) Vol. 18, Nos. [illegible]nd 2, January–June 1997; Nos. 3 and 4, July–December 1997;

(d) Draft conference report of the Regional Conference on the Role of Public Administration in Promoting Economic Transformation organized by the United Nations Department for Development Support and Management Services with EROPA;

(e) List of EROPA members by county (geographical breakdown);

(f) Copy of the Memorandum of Understanding between the United Nations and EROPA.

6. Education International

(Special consultative status granted 1967)

Aims are:

(a) To further the cause of teachers and education employees;

(b) To promote for all peoples and in all nations peace, democracy, social justice and equality;

(c) To seek and maintain recognition of trade union rights, conditions of work and employment and professional freedoms;

(d) To promote the right to education for all persons in the world without discrimination;

(e) To foster international understanding and good will, peace and freedom, and respect for human dignity;

(f) To combat all forms of racism and of bias or discrimination in education and society;

(g) To build the leadership role of women, solidarity, closer relationships among teachers and education employees in all countries, independent and democratic organizations and unity.

Education International (EI) represents some 280 national education unions in all regions of the world, and some 23 million teachers and education workers in 148 countries or territories. Funding is through affiliation fees. Extrabudgetary funding is raised by member organizations for solidarity and development cooperation.

Education International was formed in Stockholm, Sweden, in January 1993 by the merger of the World Confederation of Organisations of the Teaching Profession and the International Federation of Free Teachers Unions. The first ordinary World Congress was held in Harare, Zimbabwe, in July 1995. The next triennial World Congress was scheduled to be held in Washington, D.C., United States of America, in July 1998.

EI participated in:

(a) Sessions of the Economic and Social Council through the Conference of NGOs (Presidency 1994–1997);

(b) Commission on the Status of Women (1994, 1995, 1996, 1997);

(c) Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities of the Commission on Human Rights (1994, 1995, 1996, 1997);

(d) World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, March 1995 (plenary statement);

(e) Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 1995 (plenary statement).

Extensive programmes of cooperation with:

(a) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO): consultative status; memorandum of agreement signed March 1994; programmes including World Teachers Day, education for all and lifelong learning, human rights and tolerance, status of teachers, International Conference on Education;

(b) International Labour Organization (ILO): status of International Trade Secretariat; programmes including trade union rights, status and conditions of teachers, campaign against child labour;

(c) World Health Organization (WHO): programmes include health education; campaign against human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS);

(d) World Bank: education for all, finance for education, partnership in education reform;

(e) Developing cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF): education for all; education for girls and women.

In cooperation with the United Nations Secretariat, EI undertook substantial activities to promote knowledge of the United Nations in schools. The World Congress in Harare, Zimbabwe, July 1995, adopted a resolution on the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations. Teaching kits were launched at this Congress and member organizations supported "Teach-in", highlighting United Nations Day in schools.

EI publications (*Monthly Monitor*, *EI Magazine*) frequently include items on the work of the United Nations and its specialized agencies.

EI has produced joint publications (mainly with UNESCO). These have dealt with or consisted in the following: health/HIV; violence in schools; training kit on human rights; tolerance in films; "Portraits in Courage" (outstanding teachers); a Media Handbook; women in the economy; a country monograph on implementation of the ILO/UNESCO Recommendation on the Status of Teachers.

7. Emmaus International Association

(Special consultative status granted 1993)

Introduction

Aims and purposes

The aim of this non-governmental organization is to work to ensure that each and every individual, society and nation may live, establish themselves and find fulfilment through exchange and sharing, and in equal dignity.

Its purposes are: to enable excluded and marginalized people to resume responsibility for their economic, cultural and social destinies, most often as a community; to strive for more equitable international relations — particularly between North and South — which would take better account of the basic needs of all people, and of their right to development; to combat wastage of human and natural resources through recycling — by persons excluded from the economic and social mainstream — of products discarded by populations of wealthy countries.

Growth in membership

In early 1994, Emmaus International had 264 member associations in 27 countries. By late 1997, its membership had increased to 282 member associations in 29 countries, the two new countries being Burkina Faso and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Affiliation to an international non-governmental organization with consultative status

In October 1994, after obtaining our special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, we joined CONGO (the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council).

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or conferences and other United Nations meetings

Emmaus International took part in:

(a) The World Summit for Social Development, first session of the Preparatory Committee, 31 January–11 February 1994, New York. The Secretary-General of Emmaus International submitted a written statement at the fourth meeting on the theme: direction of economic development, development of social policies and the role of the individual. He attended the entire session of the Preparatory Committee accompanied by the second representative of Emmaus International;

(b) The World Summit for Social Development, second session of the Preparatory Committee, 22 August–2 September 1994, New York. The Secretary-General of Emmaus International made an oral statement on the theme: For the establishment of a World Social Development Organization under the auspices of the United Nations. He also participated in the work of the Development Caucus;

(c) The World Summit for Social Development, third session of the Preparatory Committee, 16–27 January 1995, New York. The Secretary-General of Emmaus International signed a joint statement with two other non-governmental organizations (International Movement ATD Fourth World and International Association of Charities)

on the theme of the participation of the poorest in their own development in both industrialized and developing countries. He also participated in the work of the Development Caucus;

(d) The World Summit for Social Development, 6–12 March 1995, Copenhagen. The Secretary-General of Emmaus International attended the Summit with one representative of the organization from Benin and one from Finland. Another representative of the organization attended the Summit alongside non-governmental organizations forming part of the official delegation of the French Government;

(e) The Economic and Social Council, substantive session, 26 June–28 July 1995, Geneva. The representative of Emmaus International attended the session.

Cooperation with United Nations programmes and bodies and specialized agencies

None.

Other relevant activities

Action in implementation of United Nations resolutions

None.

Consultations and cooperation with officials of the United Nations Secretariat

None.

Preparation of papers and/or other materials at the request of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies, or of the United Nations Secretariat

None.

Other examples of consultative and substantive activities

Emmaus International participated in the activities of the non-governmental organization International Movement ATD Fourth World at the United Nations Office at Geneva, including its working group on "human rights and extreme poverty". In the framework of the Economic and Social Council, the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities of the Commission on Human Rights had entrusted the study on the realization of economic, social and cultural rights to the Special Rapporteur, Mr. Leandro Despouy. Emmaus International distributed the survey to all of its members, as well as other partner organizations across the world; it was able to submit contributions to the Rapporteur from some 10 countries and four continents. The contribution of Emmaus International is mentioned by the Rapporteur on page 29 of his second interim report (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1995/15).

Emmaus International cooperated on a number of occasions with the Director of the European Office of the United Nations Development Programme at Geneva. At the request of UNDP, following the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen, Emmaus International supplied details of European networks of non-governmental organizations working to eradicate poverty. In the light of the world publicity campaign to be launched by UNDP in the context of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, Emmaus International, in late 1997, proposed examples of concrete actions which could be carried out by people throughout the world, without financial implications.

Following the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen in March 1995, Emmaus International produced a report on the Summit, which it distributed to its members throughout the world and to more than 200 French and European non-governmental organizations, as part of the "Building a Europe of Solidarity Together" campaign. Two representatives of Emmaus International participated in the work of the National Follow-Up Committee of the World Summit for Social Development established by the French Government. Ever since the Summit, the Belgian branch of the organization has been participating on a regular basis in the work of the "Copenhagen Group" in Brussels — a grouping of Belgian non-governmental organizations which has worked with UNDP and others, and has produced an educational package entitled "International financial speculation — Ourselves and the third world", exploring the links between external debt and the fight against poverty.

At the invitation of the Spanish Presidency of the European Union, the President of Emmaus International addressed the Conference "After Copenhagen, European Union actions against exclusion", organized in Madrid in November 1995 to deal with the fight against exclusion at the European and international levels.

The regional representative for Africa produced a monograph in 1994 on waste-water purification by aquatic plants at Emmaüs Tohouè, Benin. It was published by the non-governmental organization Habitat International Coalition (HIC) in Mexico City, as part of a series of 15 case studies entitled "Promotion of sustainable drinking water and sustainable purification in urban areas". Co-financed by UNDP and its programme Local Initiative Facility for Urban Environment (LIFE), this series is intended, *inter alia*, as a contribution to the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) in Istanbul.

Emmaus International — December 1997

Member associations, associates and other contact associations[a]

Country	*Member associations*	*Associates*	*Subtotal*	*Other contact associations*	*Total*
Algeria	2	1	3	1	4
Benin	3	1	4	2	6
Burkina Faso	1	1	2		2
Cameroon		1	1	1	2
Democratic Republic of the Congo	1		1		1
Rwanda	**7**	**4**	**11**	**5**	**16**
Africa (subtotal)	3		3		3
Canada	3		3		3
United States	**6**	**0**	**6**	**0**	**6**
North America (subtotal)	8		8	1	9
Argentina	2		2	1	3
Bolivia		4	4		4
Brazil	4	2	6		6
Chile	2	0	2		2
Colombia			0	1	1
Guatemala	6	5	11		11
Peru	2	1	3		3
Uruguay	**24**	**12**	**36**	**3**	**39**
Latin America (subtotal)	2	1	3	2	5
India	1		1		1
Indonesia	9	2	11		11
Japan	2	0	2		2
Lebanon		1	1		1
Philippines	4	1	5		5
Republic of Korea		1	1		1
Sri Lanka				1	1
Viet Nam	**18**	**6**	**24**	**3**	**27**
Asia (subtotal)	5	0	5		5
Denmark	6	5	11		11
Finland	1		1		1
Norway	9	5	14		14
Sweden	**21**	**10**	**31**	**0**	**31**
Northern Europe (subtotal)		1	1		1
Austria	6	5	11		11
Belgium					

Country	*Member associations*	*Associates*	*Subtotal*	*Other contact associations*	*Total*
Germany	4	2	6		6
Italy	8	3	11		11
Monaco		1	1		1
Netherlands	17	6	23		23
Portugal		2	2		2
Spain	5	1	6		6
Switzerland	10	2	12		12
United Kingdom	1	6	7		7
Central and Southern Europe (subtotal)	**51**	**29**	**80**	**0**	**80**
France	**156**	**57**	**213**		**213**
Bosnia and Herzegovina			0	1	1
Estonia		1	1		1
Lithuania				2	2
Poland		1	1	2	3
Russian Federation				1	1
Eastern Europe (subtotal)	**0**	**2**	**2**	**6**	**8**
Europe (subtotal)	**228**	**98**	**326**	**6**	**332**
Total	**283**	**120**	**403**	**17**	**420**
including					
12 European countries	217	93	310	0	310
17 Council of Europe countries	228	97	325	4	329
20 developing countries	40	20	60	11	71
4 least developed countries	6	3	9	4	13

[a] The figures refer exclusively to associations, not individuals.

8. Foundation for the Rights of the Family (PRODEFA)

(Special consultative status granted 1987)

Introduction

Aims and purposes are to enhance the basic functions of the family in society; and to promote a declaration on the rights and responsibilities of the family. PRODEFA's whole activity is centred on this purpose through the organization of meetings, seminars and workshops, position papers, the study of international documents, publications and contacts with United Nations officers and Member States and with other family and social non-governmental organizations. PRODEFA is a Board member of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family and collaborates with all affiliated non-governmental organizations.

PRODEFA's International Secretariat has 21 members dispersed across Africa, the Americas, Asia, Australia and Europe. The organization is mainly funded by the Spanish Ministry of Social Affairs.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council

PRODEFA has been attending the Commission for Social Development since 1987, first in Vienna and later in New York, and maintains a good relationship with the delegates, for most of them have remained the same over the years, except for the fact that there have been political changes taking place in some of the countries.

At all the sessions of the Commission for Social Development, PRODEFA presents written and oral statements focused on the family and family members. Attendance at United Nations meetings and conferences was as follows:

(a) 1994: 18 and 19 October, General Assembly, forty-ninth session, International Conferences on Families, New York;

(b) 1994: 4–7 February, United Nations Interregional Meeting of National Coordinators/Focal Points for the International Year of the Family, Bratislava, Slovakia (as a member of the Spanish Delegation);

(c) 1995: 6–12 March, World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen: participation in a Workshop and a joint declaration;

(d) 1995: 10–20 April, thirty-fourth session of the Commission for Social Development, New York: written and oral statements on item 4 of the agenda entitled "Monitoring of international plans and programmes of action";

(e) 1995: 4–15 September, Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing: written statement signed by a number of non-governmental organizations;

(f) 1996: 21–31 May, special session of the Commission for Social Development, New York: written and oral statements on item 4 of the agenda entitled "Substantive theme: strategies and actions for the eradication of poverty";

(g) 1997: 26 February–6 March, thirty-fifth session of the Commission for Social Development, New York: written and oral statements on item 3 (b) of the agenda entitled "Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development: review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups".

Cooperation with United Nations programmes and bodies and specialized agencies

During the International Year of the Family, PRODEFA collaborated actively with the Coordinator of the IYF, Mr. Henryk Sokalski, who granted two testimonials, one to PRODEFA and a second to the International Secretary, for their "permanent collaboration in the preparation of the IYF".

In 1994 PRODEFA published a book called *The Family and Human Rights*, a compilation of excerpts from United States documents and instruments on topics such as children, women, ageing, the disabled, poverty, environment and so on. This document was widely distributed at the level of United Nations agencies and bodies.

Other activities

Action in implementation of United Nations resolutions

PRODEFA is frequently asked by universities, associations and other groups, to inform, in meetings, seminars or workshops, both in Spain and abroad, about resolutions taken by the United Nations (*inter alia*, General Assembly resolution 47/237 entitled "International Year of the Family", wherein the possibility of a declaration on the rights and responsibilities of the family is mentioned), to give an outline of United Nations policies reflected in documents and instruments and to provide general information on how the family is dealt with at the international level. Such approaches have included:

(a) Annual seminars of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family;

(b) "Global Conference '94", July 1994, Tampere, Finland, convened by the International Council on Social Welfare;

(c) "Today's Families: A bridge to the future", October 1994, Montreal, convened by the Canada Committee for the International Year of the Family;

(d) "International Congress on the Family", November 1994, Palma de Mallorca, Baleares (Balearic Islands), Spain, Baleares Administration;

(e) "Family problems in today's Europe", December 1995, CEU University, Madrid.

Besides, after each meeting at the United Nations attended by PRODEFA, a report is prepared and circulated to PRODEFA's Board members, to the Spanish Ministry of Social Affairs and to Board members of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family.

Consultations and cooperation with officials of the United Nations Secretariat

During the special session of the Commission for Social Development in 1996, PRODEFA and other Board members of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family had a meeting with Nitin Desai, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, and in 1997, during the thirty-fifth session of the Commission, PRODEFA met John Langmore, Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development.

PRODEFA also collaborates closely with the Subprogramme on Family (Family Unit) through Amr Ghaleb, and with the NGO Unit through Yao Ngoran, and keeps in touch with Andrzej Krassowski, Assistant Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development and Mr. Alexander de Barros, Secretary of the Commission for Social Development.

Preparation of papers and/or other material at the request of the Economic and Social Council or of the United Nations Secretariat

The only papers PRODEFA prepares are the oral and written statements for the Commission for Social Development. However, we have forwarded our own publications to several United Nations departments, the last being the Spanish updated version of "The Family and Human Rights", excerpts from United Nations documents and instruments from 1948 to 1997. The updated compilation in English is being prepared.

Other examples of consultative and substantive activities, including financial assistance received from or given to the United Nations, field-level collaboration, joint sponsorship of meetings, seminars, studies and so on are as follows:

(a) Interregional meeting: in 1997, PRODEFA started having contacts with the Permanent Mission of Spain to the United Nations and with the Family Unit (Division for Social Policy and Development) with a view to organizing in Madrid an interregional meeting of delegations of the Commission for Social Development, scheduled to be held in 1999. Several delegations have already been approached. This meeting, an initiative of PRODEFA, is being prepared in collaboration with the Vienna Committee. The three panels of five delegations and two non-governmental organizations will each discuss the social dimension of the family at international level. The Preliminary Programme, prepared by PRODEFA, has been discussed and reviewed by the Family Committee in Vienna and the Family Unit in New York. The meeting is being financed by the Spanish Ministry of Social Affairs;

(b) Conference: in December 1994, PRODEFA held its sixth International Conference on "Responsibilities and Rights of the Family as a resource for sustainable development", financed by the European Commission and by the Spanish Ministry of Social Affairs. Henryk J. Sokalski, United Nations Coordinator of the International Year of the Family, made a presentation;

(c) Vienna NGO Family Committee: as a Board member, PRODEFA attends the five to six Board meetings held annually, plus two full Committee meetings. Vienna created a permanent Working Group to assess and improve the relationship with the United Nations, PRODEFA being leader of the Group.

9. Friends World Committee for Consultation

(Special consultative status granted 1948)

Introductory statement

Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) was established in 1937 as a means of communication and combined action for Yearly Meetings (autonomous groups) of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). Some 70 Yearly Meetings, as well as smaller groups, are currently affiliated with FWCC (see below for membership figures). Numbers in East Africa and Central and South America have increased during 1994–1997. The present report does not include Yearly Meeting activities, or activities of FWCC that are not directly related to its function as a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

FWCC maintains resident representatives in New York and Geneva, and also appoints other representatives to conferences and similar events, as a means of implementing the Quaker religious commitment to peace, social justice and the fullness of humanity. The major sources of income for FWCC continue to be contributions from affiliated bodies, individuals and trusts. The New York office is managed and substantially funded by American Friends Service Committee, an independent Quaker organization in the United States of America, and the Geneva office by Quaker Peace and Service, a part of the Yearly Meeting of Friends in Britain. Both offices also receive funding from other Quaker groups and individuals, from trusts and from some Government foundations supporting non-governmental organization activities.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and other United Nations meetings

Meetings

Representatives in New York regularly attend meetings of the United Nations General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council, the Disarmament Commission and a number of their subsidiary bodies. Staff in Geneva attend meetings of the Commission on Human Rights, the Conference on Disarmament, the Executive Committee of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), human rights treaty bodies, the World Trade Organization and its Committee on Trade and Environment, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and a number of their subsidiary bodies.

Special events attended include:

(a) 1995:

(i) Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Cairo;

(ii) Fourth World Conference on Women and the associated NGO Forum, Beijing;

(iii) Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, Vienna and Geneva;

(iv) United Nations Working Party to Consider the Issue of Structural Adjustment for the Transition to Disarmament;

(v) Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, New York;

(vi) World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen;

(b) 1996:

(i) Fourth Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction;

(ii) World Trade Organization First Ministerial Conference, Singapore;

(c) 1997:

(i) "Ottawa Process" on landmines in Brussels, Oslo, Ottawa;

(ii) African Regional Workshop on Firearm Regulation, Arusha;

(iii) Regional Workshop on Firearm Regulation, São Paulo.

Statements during the period under review include those delivered at:

(a) 1994: Commission on Human Rights re conscientious objection to military service;

(b) 1995: Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, Vienna, re proposed ban on other types of anti-personnel weapons;

(c) 1996:

(i) Fourth Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction;

(ii) Commission on Human Rights, re legal principles for internally displaced persons;

(d) 1997:

(i) Commission on Human Rights, re the prevention of recruitment of children, torture of children, minimum humanitarian standards, ill treatment of recruits, conscientious objection to military service;

(ii) Executive Committee of the Programme of UNHCR re repatriation challenges (joint non-governmental organization);

(iii) Regional Workshop on Firearm Regulation, São Paulo, re small arms control.

Cooperation with United Nations programmes and bodies and specialized agencies, and other relevant activities

The offices in both Geneva and New York (occasionally in collaboration with other bodies) have organized a wide variety of colloquiums, conferences, lunchtime and other informal meetings for United Nations staff, diplomats and non-governmental organization representatives. Some of these were preparatory or offered as a follow-up to conferences attended. Others were variously related to the following topics which staff have been monitoring and analysing:

(a) Reform of the United Nations, in particular of the Security Council;

(b) Environment and development: the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa; the Commission on Sustainable Development; a global approach to and sustainable management of forests; freshwater;

(c) Peacemaking, peacekeeping and disarmament: conversion of military resources to civilian use; post-conflict demilitarization; arms control and disarmament; codes of conduct for the sale and transfer of conventional arms; anti-personnel landmines; cruel and indiscriminate weapons; controls on small arms/light weapons; biological weapons; peace-building in war-torn societies; the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization and the Model Nuclear Weapons Convention;

(d) Trade and investment: trade and the environment; social dimensions of the liberalization of international trade; a multilateral framework agreement on investment;

(e) Human rights: child soldiers; conscientious objection; refugees, internally displaced persons and asylum laws; empowerment of women and their advancement in the social and economic fabric of societies; Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; rights of indigenous peoples, in particular the draft United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples;

(f) Justice: restorative justice; the proposed International Criminal Court;

(g) Regional issues.

Briefing and discussion papers on many of the above issues have been prepared and circulated.

A Geneva staff member, Rachel Brett, contributed to the Machel study of the impact of armed conflict on children. She helped to organize and made presentations at a United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)/non-governmental organization workshop and symposium on child soldiers in Cape Town, South Africa – which produced the "Cape Town Principles and Best Practice" on the prevention of recruitment, demobilization and social reintegration of child soldiers. She also worked on the draft of an optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, relating to the minimum age for recruitment. The work on child soldiers has been published as Rachel Brett and Margaret McCallin, *Children: The Invisible Soldiers* (Rädda Barnen, 1996).

Visits to New York and Geneva, including meetings with United Nations staff, diplomats and non-governmental organizations, have been arranged for Quakers and their contacts who have recent experience in various regions of interest, including the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Chechnya and the Great Lakes region of Africa.

Publicity: Both offices produce newsletters, reports, briefing papers and booklets for circulation to United Nations staff, diplomats, Quakers, academics and other concerned persons and bodies. Reports on the work are published in Quaker and other periodicals, and staff regularly travel to interpret their work and that of the United Nations to Quaker and other groups. Young people become familiar with United Nations procedures and issues through the intern programme at both offices, and the annual summer school in Geneva.

Membership statistics

World membership: 312,272 (individuals, approximate figure)

Regional breakdown (many of the figures are approximations)

Country	*Number of members*	*Date (s) of information*
	Africa	
Burundi	7 500	1997/1998
Democratic Republic of the Congo	1 003	1997/1998
Ghana	18	1997/1998
Kenya	96 425	1994, 1997/1998
Nigeria	15	1997/1998
Rwanda	1 500	1994
South Africa (including a few from neighbouring countries)	121	1997/1998
Uganda	2 637	1997/1998
United Republic of Tanzania	1072	1997/1998
	Americas	
Bolivia	14 500	1994
Canada	1 158	1994
Colombia	20	1994
Costa Rica	80	1994
Cuba	300	1994
El Salvador	250	1994
Guatemala	1 000	1994
Honduras	2 000	1994
Jamaica	430	1994
Mexico	150	1994
Nicaragua	20	1994
Peru	2 000	1994
United States of America	85 494	1994–1997

Country	*Number of members*	*Date(s) of information*
	Asia-West Pacific	
Australia	1 060	1997
China (Hong Kong)	20	1997
India	712	1997
Japan	235	1997
Korea (South)	12	1997
New Zealand	654	1996
	Europe and the Middle East	
Austria	11	1997
Belgium and Luxembourg	43	1997
Denmark	29	1997
Finland	24	1997
France	70	1997
Germany	339	1997
Ireland	1 622	1997
Lebanon	30	1994
Palestine (West Bank)	20	1994
Netherlands	112	1997
Norway	133	1997
Russia	10	1997
Spain	8	1997
Sweden	110	1997
Switzerland	112	1997
United Kingdom	17 327	1997
	Isolated individuals	
	72	1998

10. General Arab Women Federation

(Special consultative status granted 1985)

Main objectives of the organization:

(a) To act to unify the Arab women movement at the international level and achieve its participation in international conferences as one group;

(b) To promote the spirit of solidarity among Arab women so as to make efforts of Arab women reflect a whole unit and unify their efforts in social, educational and health services;

(c) To inform world public opinion of the situation of Arab women and their role in building their community;

(d) To enhance women's status within the family and her responsibility, with men, in the field of family planning and childcare on the bases that man and woman are partners in life and both should participate in making a living on the grounds of cooperation and equality;

(e) To educate women about their rights, train them to use those rights and encourage them to be involved at different levels in society's general life;

(f) To act to encourage women in Arab society to study at different levels and achieve their social and educational objectives;

(g) To prepare opportunities and means for preparing and training women in different jobs and helping them to accept responsibilities at different levels of work;

(h) To combat attitudes opposed to equality with men;

(i) To integrate women into the Arab society and involve them in the development process;

(j) To participate in the social and economic development process in society through cooperation with organizations;

(k) To help Arab women abroad and connect them to their mother homelands.

National organizations members of the Federation are: Union Nationale Des Femmes Marocaines, Union Nationale Des Femmes Algeriennes, Union Nationale De La Femme Tunisienne, Federation of Yemeni Women, Secretariat of the General People's Congress (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya), General Federation of Iraqi Women, General Federation of Jordanian Women, General Federation of Palestinian Women, Sudanese Democratic Women's Federation, Union Nationale des Femmes de Djibouti, United Arab Emirates Women's Union, Federation of Western Somali Women, Somali Democratic Women's Federation, General Federation of Ahwaz Women, Lebanese Women's Group, General Federation of Eritrean Women, Friends of People Society, (Egypt), Alliance of Arab Women (Egypt), General Association for Women's Welfare (Egypt), Children and Mother Welfare Society (Bahrain), Foundation pour l'Emancipation de la Femme par le Travail, Women's Cultural and Social Association (Kuwait), and Oman Women's Association.

Relationship of the Federation with the United Nations specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations:

(a) Consultative relationship with the Economic and Social Council;

(b) Operational relationship with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) according to the resolution of the General Conference at its twenty-eighth session in October 1997;

(c) Membership in the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (CONGO) and member of Executive Office of CONGO since 1994.

Participation of the Federation in the meetings of the Economic and Social Council: the Secretary-General of the Federation participated in the substantive session of 1995 of the Economic and Social Council in Geneva during July 1995, taking part in the discussions concerning the enlargement of the role of non-governmental organizations at the United Nations.

Participation of the Federation in subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council:

(a) Commission on Human Rights:

(i) The Federation participated in the fifty-first session of the Commission on Human Rights held between 30 January and 10 March 1995, where its representative in Geneva gave a speech on agenda items 11 and 24;

(ii) A representative of the Federation took part in the fifty-second session of the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva on 5 April 1996 and delivered an oral speech on agenda item 20;

(iii) The Federation participated in the fifty-third session of the Commission on Human Rights held in April 1997 and its representative in Geneva addressed the Commission on agenda item 10;

(b) Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities: the Federation participated in the forty-eighth session of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities;

(c) Commission on the Status of Women:

(i) The Federation participated in the thirty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women held in New York between 15 March and 4 April 1995 which was committed to preparing for the Fourth World Conference on Women;

(ii) The Federation participated in the fortieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women held in New York between 11 and 22 March 1996;

(iii) The Federation participated in the forty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women held in New York between 10 and 21 March 1997;

(d) Commission on Narcotic Drugs:

(i) The Federation participated in the thirty-eighth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs held in Vienna, 14–23 March 1995;

(ii) The Federation participated in the thirty-ninth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs held in Vienna between 16 and 25 April 1996;

(iii) The Federation took part in the thirty-ninth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs held in Vienna between 18 and 25 March 1997.

Participation of the Federation in United Nations world conferences:

(a) The Federation participated in the International Conference on Population and Development held in Cairo between 5 and 13 September 1994;

(b) The Federation participated in the International Conference on the Family (A Bridge for the Future) held in Montreal (Canada) between 12 and 15 October 1994;

(c) The Federation took part in the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing from 30 August until 15 September 1995, as well as in the Regional Preparatory Conference held in Amman during November 1994;

(d) The Federation participated in the World Summit on Cities, held in Istanbul between 3 and 14 June 1996;

(e) The Federation participated in the World Food Summit held in Rome from 13 to 17 September 1996.

Federation participation in United Nations meetings and conferences:

(a) United Nations programmes and the specialized agencies:

(i) The Federation took part in organizing the seminar with the Regional Office of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations held in Baghdad on 23 July 1996 to prepare for the World Food Summit;

(ii) The Federation participated in the Regional Discussions Meeting for Non-Governmental Organizations of UNESCO, held in Amman from 9 to 14 March 1996;

(iii) The Federation participated in the twenty-ninth session of the General Conference of UNESCO held in Paris from 21 October to 12 November 1997;

(iv) The Federation received a letter from UNESCO (epd-dir. 94. 120.31) dated 5 October 1994 concerning educating women in matters of population and environment and the Federation replied to the letter (A.A. 13.3-548) dated 19 December 1994;

(v) The Federation received a memorandum from UNESCO (BRX-Rio.2A 205) dated 17 July 1996 supplemented by a paper on the means of discussion between the Director-General of UNESCO and non-governmental organizations, and the Federation stated its observations in a memorandum (A.A. 13.3.210) dated 7 September 1997 in reply to which the Federation received the memorandum (BRX.Rio .2ed 135) dated 14 October 1996 containing a note of thanks for the Federation's observations;

(vi) The Federation periodically receives models of vacancy notices from the World Health Organization which the Secretary-General in turn distributes among members with respect to nominating whoever has the qualifications for these jobs.

The Federation's participation in United Nations non-governmental forums:

(a) The Federation participated in the meeting of the Forum of the Planning Committee of NGO Organizations of the Beijing Conference held in New York during 1996;

(b) The Federation participated in the forty-seventh Annual Conference for NGOs on the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations held in New York from 20 to 23 September 1994;

(c) The Federation participated in the NGO Conference held in New York from 20 to 22 September on the role of NGOs in building peace;

(d) The Federation participated in the NGO Forum for the Economic Commission for Europe held in Vienna from 13 to 15 October 1994;

(e) The Federation participated in the NGO Forum for the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia held in Amman from 6 to 10 November 1994;

(f) The Federation participated in the African NGOs Forum held in Dakar from 12 to 15 October 1994;

(g) The Federation participated in the Advisory Meeting of NGOs held in New York from 23 to 24 October 1995;

(h) The Federation participated in the World NGO Forum on explaining the demand for drugs which was held in Bangkok between 12 and 26 December 1994;

(i) The Federation participated in marginal NGO Forum of the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing between 30 August and 15 September 1995;

(j) The Federation participated in meetings of the Special Commission for United Nations Non-Governmental Organizations: Needs for Human Rights, held in Vienna on 18 December 1995;

(k) The Federation participated in the meeting of the NGO Commission for the American region on the Palestinian cause which was held in New York between 24 and 26 June 1996;

(l) The Federation participated in the NGO Forum for the World Food Summit held in Rome between 13 and 17 September 1996;

(m) The Federation participated in the Seminar of the United Nations Palestinian Rights Department, which discussed the means to achieve a just and continuous solution to the Palestinian cause, held in Jakarta between 6 and 9 May 1996;

(n) The Federation received a memorandum from the Organization (Human Rights Watch) about nominating incumbents for work. The memorandum was distributed among member organizations and a nominee was named from the General Jordanian Women Union. The Federation sent its memorandum to that effect to the Human Rights Organization (A.A. 13.4.500) dated 3 November 1994.

Cooperation with the United Nations Secretariat-General:

(a) The Federation received a memorandum from the Centre for Human Rights (SO-214 (87)) dated 31 August 1995 concerning Commission on Human Rights resolution 1995/45 dated 3 March 1995 on human rights and singular oppressive actions and the Federation responded with a memorandum (A.A. 13-3-4-245) dated 8 November 1995;

(b) The Secretariat-General received a memorandum from the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (G. so 214, 1664) dated 30 September 1996 on Commission on Human Rights resolution 1996/103 dated 11 April 1996 concerning the effect of structural adjustment policies concerned with human rights and the Secretary-General had responded through the memorandum (A.A. 13-4-1-286) dated 14 November 1996;

(c) The Secretariat-General received a memorandum (G.So 214(88-1)) dated 15 July 1997 on General Assembly resolution 51/104 dated 12 December 1996 concerning the United Nations contract to evaluate the human rights area and the Secretary-General replied through a memorandum (A.A. 13-14-1-196);

(d) The Secretariat-General received a memorandum from the United Nations Relief Programme dated 1 September 1997 on the proposal of declaring the year 2001 as the International Year for Volunteers and the Federation replied with a memorandum (195) dated 5 November 1997 supporting the issuing of a resolution from the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia;

(e) The Federation received a memorandum from the United Nations International Drug Control Programme in Vienna dated 6 February 1996 concerning an information questionnaire about the Federation, replied to through a Federation memorandum (A.A. 13-60) dated 19 April 1996;

(f) The Federation received a memorandum from the Executive Commission of NGOs in cooperation with the United Nations Relief Programme and Information Section concerning the United Nations financial crisis, urging member States to fulfil financial obligations; the memorandum was distributed among member organizations after which the Federation replied with a memorandum (A.A. 13-4-144) dated 1 June 1996:

Cooperation with human rights treaty bodies: The Secretariat-General of the Federation received a memorandum (G.So 221-972) dated 30 August 1996, from the head of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights asking for notes concerning Iraq's periodic report on implementing paragraphs 6–12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The Secretariat-General of the Federation replied with a memorandum (number A.A. 13-4-1-282) dated 9 November 1996. The representative of the Federation in Geneva also participated in the activities of the working group of said Committee which was held in Geneva on 9 December 1996.